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CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

3

COUNTRY Turkey

SUBJECT Political Position of Marshal
Fevzi Çakmak

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DIST. 15 November 1946

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SUPPLEMENT

This document is hereby returned to the CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

1. Serious divergencies of opinion developed of late between leading members of the Democratic Party and Marshal Fevzi Çakmak. The Marshal complained of the secondary place assigned to him, in spite of his being an Independent Deputy and having been elected as such at the Grand National Assembly. He further resented the lack of respect shown him by Celal Bayar, President of the DP., as well as the lack of support given him on several occasions at the Grand National Assembly. On the other hand, members of the Party, particularly such leading men as Adnan Menderes, Fuad Köprülü, Refik Koraltan, and Basri Akas, the General Secretary of the Party, were equally resentful of the Marshal's refusal to join the Democratic Party. These men would like to have the Marshal become a party member and adhere to the party's policies. However, as the Marshal had insisted upon making statements to the press which did not conform to the general policy of the Democratic Party, the above-mentioned members decided to withdraw their backing and leave the Marshal free to act in line with his own ideas as an Independent Deputy.
2. The entire issue had to be clarified and, following the intervention of mutual friends, a meeting was arranged between the Marshal and Celal Bayar at which the executive members of the Party were present. This meeting, held in Ankara, lasted five hours, during which time all questions were examined and an agreement finally reached. It was agreed that the Marshal would remain an Independent Deputy in accordance with his own wishes, but that he would refrain from making important declarations in the Grand National Assembly, to the press, or statements to the Turkish people without first consulting the Executive Committee of the Party.
3. The position of the Marshal has thus been clearly defined by the agreement between him and the Democratic Party. The Marshal will now be given the full backing of the Party as a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic, a position he is most anxious to obtain, and he in turn will support the policies of the Democratic Party.*

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Comment:

Çakmak was planning a break with the Democratic Party because he had been led to believe that he would take over the leadership of the Party. However, most of the Party adherents felt that the Marshal was too old and too inexperienced politically to assume control of the Party.

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